

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #9
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**

**Various New Mexico locations, NM
Latitude: 36.8374600 Longitude: -107.9916800**

From: Ronnie Crossland, Region 6 Regional Incident Commander (RIC)

Date: 8/16/2015

Reporting Period: 8/15/2015 0700 – 8/15/2015 1900

1. Introduction

1.1 Description of Threat

Region 8 reported approximately three million gallons of mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

1.2 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Water monitoring and sampling is ongoing at public water supply intakes and private wells and field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

2. Current Activities

Headquarters has established a joint website at www.epa.gov/goldkingmine.

Created a new general public call-in number for Regions 6, 8, and 9: 844 – 607 – 9700.

2.1 Operations Section

New Mexico announced its determination that drinking water systems and recreational activity along the Animas and San Juan rivers can resume based on water quality sampling results collected by both New Mexico Environment Department and the EPA. New Mexico plans to open the River at 2000 MDT August 15, 2015.

At the August 14, 2015, community meeting, Secretary Flynn announced that the State would begin ditch flushing that night. Ditch operators began flushing the ditches at 1900 MDT on August 14, 2015.

The August 7-10, 2015, surface water sampling data is now available on the Gold King Mine website: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-data-august-13-2015>.

Toll-Free Number Activity

	8/15/15	Total to Date
Total Calls Received	5	122
Calls Concerning R6	1	49
Calls Returned by R6	13	49

Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

In addition to the private water well samples taken as listed below, an additional five samples from the Southside and Flora Vista public water supply wells were taken as requested by the water systems.

Date	Number of Private Wells Sampled
8/10	10
8/11	31
8/12	23
8/13	0 New Locations (38 re-samples)
8/14	35
8/15	15
TOTAL	114 Distinct Wells

Drinking Water Technical Support/Pretreatment/Connections

Morningstar and Farmington are completing the connection between their water systems, current plans are to complete this task the afternoon of 8/16/15. NMED supports EPA's decision to put this pumping system into place. The water system operators will complete the connections and will operate the system once functional. Although the public water intakes have been opened it will take at least 48 hours for the system to completely come back on line.

On August 15, 2015, EPA began transporting and offloading raw water into Morningstar's pretreatment settling ponds. Seven trucks were dedicated to delivering raw water to Morningstar. It is not expected to significantly reduce the need for additional water supply. Morningstar was very appreciative of EPA's quick response and assistance.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

	8/15/2015	Total to Date
River Surface Water Samples	9	46
River Sediment Samples	9	76

Irrigation Ditch Sampling

Soil/sediment samples were taken at two private properties along the river on August 15, 2015 at the request of the locals within Unified Command. One of the property owners reported to the NM Department of Agriculture that one of her goats died and a litter from a prized herding dog were stillborn within the last week. Three samples were taken at one location and two at the other.

	8/15/2015	Total to Date
Non-River Sediment/Soil Samples	5	59

Agriculture and Livestock Water

Several agriculture locations rescinded their requests for water after New Mexico lifted the advisory restricting the use of private water wells. It is also anticipated that as the irrigation ditch water levels stabilize, water hauling deliveries will decrease.

	8/15/15	Total to Date
Farmers Served	2	22
Gallons to Farmers	141,960	974,190
Livestock Farms Served	5	22
Gallons to Livestock Farms	9,618	38,925

2.2 Finance Section

Daily Cost Estimates Report

Funding Source	EPA Expended Payroll	EPA Expended Travel	EPA Other Costs	Cumulative Contract Costs	TOTAL Expended	Estimated Daily Burn Rate
EPA	\$148,170.00	\$36,250.00	\$1,854.56	\$972,587.47	\$1,158,803.03	\$171,390.00

3. Participating Entities in Region 6

US EPA
USFWS
NMED
ATSDR
NM Department of Health
NM Office of the State Engineer
NM Department of Game and Fish
County of San Juan – New Mexico

4. Personnel

Group	Number
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	9
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	4
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 RIC – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 Water Liaison – Santa Fe, NM	1
Region 6 CIC – Farmington, NM	2
ERT Environmental Unit – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 EPA OSC	5
Region 6/7 Water Technicians	9
Region 6 Contractors in Field	33